

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Introduction:

Claims 1, 3-9, 14-24 and 40-47 are now pending in the application. Applicants note that the amendments to the claims were made to clarify the claims and overcome objections to the claims rather than for patentability reasons. Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the application.

Objection To Claims And Drawings:

Claims 1, 3-9 and 14-24 were objected to due to various informalities. Claims 1, 4, 8 and 14 have been amended to address the Examiner's concerns.

The drawings were objected to on the grounds that "each said test controller comprising a plurality of second conductors that are connectable to an electronic device" must be shown or canceled from the claims. Claims 1, 4, 8, and 14 have been amended and now reflect the electrical connectability of electrical devices to the plurality of second connectors. Non-limiting examples of second connectors recited claims 1, 4, 8, and 14 are illustrated in the drawings. For example, in one non-limiting embodiment shown in figure 2C, probe sets 228a-e and are non-limiting examples of second connectors.

Rejection Of Claims:

Claims 1 and 3-9 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious in view of US Patent No. 6,236,223 to Brady et al. ("Brady") and US Patent No. 5,225,775 to Sekino ("Sekino"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection on the grounds that the combination of Brady and Sekino does not teach or suggest claims 1 and 3-9.

Claim 1 recites a "base controller." By its terms, a "base *controller*" performs a control function. Cable 226 of Brady (which was equated in the Office Action with the base controller of claim 1) is merely a passive coaxial cable between Brady's antenna 226 and tester 228. (Brady col. 5, lines 23-26.) A passive coaxial cable does not perform any type of control function and simply cannot be deemed a "controller." Therefore, element 226 of Brady is not a base controller, and for this reason alone, claim 1 is patentable over Brady.

Claim 1 also recites "a plurality of test *controllers*." Again, by its terms, a "test controller" necessarily performs a control function. Brady's probe 218 (which was equated in the Office Action with a test controller of claim 1) is merely a passive device. The purpose of probe 218, as described by Brady, is merely to "physically and electrically" contact device 214. (Brady col. 4, lines 30-32.) Nothing in Brady teaches or suggests that the probe 218 performs any type of control function. Brady thus lacks "a plurality of test controllers," as would be required to meet the features of claim 1. For this additional reason, claim 1 is patentable over Brady.

Moreover, the Office Action equates Brady's probe 218 with a test controller and a second connector. Claim 1, however, recites a test controller and a second connector as separate elements. For example, claim 1 states that a test controller is "electrically connected to" a second connector. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Brady for the additional reason that the same element—Brady's probe 218—is relied on in the Office Action to be both a test controller and a second connector.

Sekino does not make up for any of the above described deficiencies in Brady. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Brady and Sekino.

Each of claims 3-9 as well as new claims 40-47 depends from claim 1 and is therefore patentable at least because of its dependency from claim 1. In addition, claims 3-9 and 40-47 recite additional features not taught or suggested by Brady and Sekino and thus further distinguish over the prior art of record.

For example, new claims 40-47 further describe structure or functions of the base controller or the test controllers. For example, claim 40 states that the base controller comprises "processing circuitry." A mere cable, like Brady's cable 226, is not any type of processing circuitry. As another example, claim 41 states that the base controller comprises a "microprocessor." Brady's cable 226 is not a microprocessor. As yet another example, claim 42 states that the base controller "receives said test data and controls transmission of said test data through said wireless means to a multiplicity of said test controllers." Brady's cable 226 performs no such function but merely provides a passive, electrically conductive path between tester 228 and antennae 222. The foregoing are but a few of the features recited in new claims 40-47 that are not taught or suggested by Brady or Sekino, whether taken individually or in combination.

Claims 14-24 were not rejected in view of the cited art but were merely objected to. As discussed above, the objections to claims 14-24 have been addressed. Therefore, claims 14-24 should be in condition for allowance.

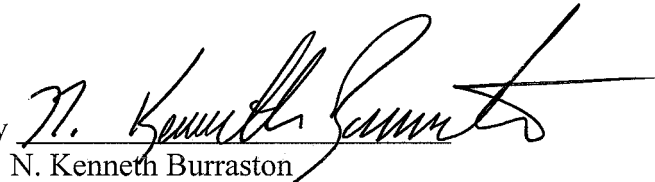
Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all the claims are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a discussion with Applicant's attorney would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (801) 323-5944.

Respectfully submitted,

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